



6 » Fake News Forum



14 » Local Lacrosse Star



17 » New Area Eateries

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Cuomo Reasserts New Bridge is On Track for 2018 Completion

by Barrett Seaman

He said it again—in early May: “We’re on time and on budget.”

He’d said it before several times, notably at the grand opening of the northern span of the new Mario M. Cuomo Bridge to two-way traffic last August. But that was before several news organizations reported that overruns and labor disputes threatened to send its overall cost, officially still \$3.9 billion, over the \$4 billion mark and further delay the grand opening of the southern, eastbound span, currently projected to occur before year’s end.

Both *The Journal News* and *POLITICO New York* ran stories in March saying that TZ Constructors, the main contractor for both the construction of the new bridge and the demolition of the old one, was filing for some \$900 million in contingency costs, while the original contract allows for only \$650 million in contingencies. These news reports also suggested that the project, originally scheduled for completion this spring and now slated for late fall, may not take place until next year.

Not according to Governor Andrew Cuomo. His repeated claim, made most recently to a gaggle of reporters on a May 8 boat tour of the site, is echoed by spokespeople for the project. They say the budget covers most



A mammoth chunk of the Tappan Zee’s center span is carted away by barge to serve as a fish habitat off Long Island.

of the contingencies and that some of them will be adjusted downward.

Flanked by Thruway Executive Director Matt Driscoll, Jamie Barbas, the overall project director, and Westchester County Executive George Latimer, the governor declared that the project was “moving right along, and we’re all very excited about that.”

What prompted Cuomo’s press event was a milestone in the deconstruction of the old Tappan Zee: the dismantling of the bridge’s 530-ft.-long, 4,700-ton center span. As the boat approached, one could take in the sheer magnitude of the section, held aloft by eight hydraulic strand jacks. Lowering the section would take the better part of the day, as it was critical to keep cables disentangled and weight distributed properly each foot of the way down. Once se-

Continued on page 3

Student Hosts Forum on Gun Violence

by Anna Young

With mass shootings a recurring incident nationwide, an Irvington High School student hosted a special gathering at the Irvington Town Hall Theater on May 23 to discuss measures that would put an end to the rash of gun violence and mass shootings in schools.

Sophomore Sam Roth organized the action-fueled symposium after he was awarded a grant from the Irvington Education Foundation’s Innovation Fund. The organization encourages students to submit ideas for creative, entrepreneurial or enrichment initiatives.

While Roth’s pitch for an educationally stimulating forum was approved, tragedy hit home for him when he learned a family friend’s daughter was one of 17 people killed at Majory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. on February 14.

“I always thought gun violence was something that was around, but when it hits a community like that I knew that something was seriously wrong. And there has been something seriously wrong; we can’t deny that,” Roth said at the event. “We have the power to be safe walking home, and it’s not only our human right but it’s something that’s been stripped of us, and we need to get that back as Americans.”

Roth said his goal for the forum, which garnered an array of students, parents, law enforcement officials and elected officials, was to fight for stricter gun laws in hopes of making society a less violent place. He stressed that legislation needs to enforce universal background checks to ensure guns are in the right hands and laws that require guns to remain locked and put away.

“Students are using a gun that’s owned by a family member so that gun is not locked up,” Roth said. “So, it’s not even that the guns are bought by the wrong person, it’s that we’re in an environment where people feel so aloof with something that can end someone’s life, and we’re also in a society where we feel committed to the second amendment.”

With the National Rifle Association

Continued on page 3



Westchester County Executive George Latimer (center left) paid a visit to the Sleepy Hollow Tarrytown Chamber of Commerce in May during its monthly meeting at EF International School.

— Photo by Sunny McLean

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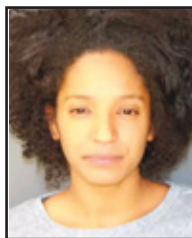
Woman Charged with Four Counts in Irvington Restaurant Murder

by Barrett Seaman

Rosa Ramirez, the pregnant 27-year-old woman arrested for the April 10 murder of River City Grille prep chef Bonafacio “Boney” Rodriguez, was formally charged May 25 in Westchester Criminal Court with four counts, including Second Degree Murder. Additionally, she was charged with two counts of criminal possession of a weapon and one of second-degree menac-

ing. She was remanded to county jail without bail.

Ramirez, who lives in lower Manhattan, had been employed as a dishwasher for less than two weeks when she attacked Rodriguez. The two other restaurant employees present at the time were not in the kitchen when the attack took place, although one tried to intervene before being threatened by



Rosa Ramirez

Ramirez, according to court records.

Since her arrest, it has been learned that Ramirez had been charged last fall with attacking a man in Brooklyn, a roommate of her boyfriend, with a knife. Court documents reveal that she told police in Westchester that she often felt angry and had suffered a “psychotic break” before attacking Ro-

driguez. Court records also suggest that she believed she was acting in self-defense when she attacked Rodriguez. She is due to appear again in court on June 5.

Meanwhile, the GoFundMe campaign launched by restaurant owner Bobby Manzi, with a goal of \$25,000 to help defray the cost of shipping Rodriguez’ body back to Mexico and otherwise support the family, has already surpassed \$29,000.

Villa Lewaro, Madame C.J. Walker Mansion in Irvington, Under Contract to be Sold

by Barrett Seaman

In the year that marks the 34-room mansion’s centennial celebration, Villa Lewaro, originally owned by Madame C. J. Walker, who made a fortune selling hair products to African-American women, is being sold. Former Ambassador and Mrs. Harold Doley, who have owned and occupied to house since 1993, are currently under contract with a buyer that does not wish to be named until the sale is finalized. Some

unconfirmed reports suggest that the new owner(s) will be a non-profit, which would take the property off the tax rolls.

The Doleys, who with the help of The National Trust for Historic Preservation last year won an easement on the property that allowed it to operate as a museum, had grown weary of the high taxes that came with such a valuable residence, as well as the cost of upkeep.

The Doleys plan to stay in the Irvington area, where they have friends and a partic-

ular commitment to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. They are currently looking to rent. They plan to be out of the mansion by mid-July, when a closing is expected.

In what will be a particularly challenging exercise in “downsizing,” the Doleys plan to hold an estate sale featuring furniture and other items from Villa Lewaro that they have not already donated to museums or handed down to their children. The three-day sale will be over Father’s Day

weekend, Friday, June 15 through Sunday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

“We have been residents of Irvington for 25 years,” said Ambassador Doley. “We took a home that was little more than a barn and restored it.” But the work required to maintain an old house, he said, paraphrasing someone with experience, is like that required of an old ship: Start at one end, and by the time you finish, you have to go back and start all over at the other.

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Gun Violence Forum

Continued from page 1

(NRA) influencing gun use and politicians at a standstill, Roth said voting will effectively change the culture surrounding gun violence.

"If we go out and vote, that's something that we can change; that's the only way we're going to change things," he said. "And if we do that, our generation will be able to end this gun epidemic."

State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins (D-Yonkers) also encouraged people to vote, asserting the significance of choosing representatives that will exemplify the issues that are most important to a community. She shared her frustration that little has been done at the state level to enact common sense gun laws and rid society from the "disease" of gun violence.

Stewart-Cousins praised youngsters for fighting for a better and safer world and refusing to sit on the sidelines as people nationwide continue to die.

"This is a fight that shouldn't be a fight,"

she said.

Howie Stern, a federal agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, thought the Columbine High School massacre would start a movement. While he was moved to tears naming other

instances of mass shootings that didn't incite a revolution for change, he said the Parkland tragedy has ignited a movement filled with passion and determination that he has never seen before.

Irvington Mayor Brian Smith explained that while he's a licensed gun owner and a member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, he wants to see common sense gun legislation enacted. While he's optimistic acts of gun violence will eventually decrease due to the surge of student led movements, he

admitted much more needs to be done.

"Our lack of dialogue on the issue of gun violence is both tragic and ironic when we consider the scope of the problem," Smith said. "So far, we've been fortunate in Irvington, but we must remain diligent, tireless, creative in our never-ending endeavor to prevent and stop gun violence here."



Sophomore Sam Roth

Bridge Completion

Continued from page 1

cured onboard the awaiting barge, the piece would be taken out to the Atlantic off the south shore of Long Island, where it will be dropped for use as an artificial reef.

The next job, which began late in the month, involves the giant cantilevered spans, the largest of which is over 600 feet long and weighs ten million pounds—so big that it must be dismantled piece by piece, explained project head Jamie Barbas. That steel will be recycled, and may, she posited, end up in someone's new car. The removal of what remain the most visible remnants of the old Tappan Zee will go on throughout the summer months. Left after that will be the cement stanchions that supported the bridge. The plan remains to take them down all the way to the riverbed.

Meanwhile, construction of the second span continues with the placement of steel girders at landing points on both the eastern and western ends of the bridge. Nine of them, each 135-ft., were lowered into place

on the Rockland shore mid-month. Next come the deck panels that sit atop the girders and form the roadway itself. They are scheduled for installation at the beginning of June.

While the old Tappan Zee Bridge may be physically removed, a pair of Republican legislators in Albany has introduced legislation that would keep the name "Tappan Zee" alive by attaching it to the new bridge. Assemblyman Kevin Byrne (Brewster) amended his version of the bill to mirror the Senate version sponsored by John DeFrancisco (Syracuse), which calls for the bridge to be re-named the "Governor Mario M. Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge"—a compromise intended to placate the current governor by retaining his father's name.

Hardly anyone, it seems, remembers that the old bridge was officially the Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge. Chances are, with or without a governor's name attached, the span connecting Rockland and Westchester counties, will be best known as the Tappan Zee.



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Sleepy Hollow High School Valedictorian and Salutatorian

by Julia Friedman

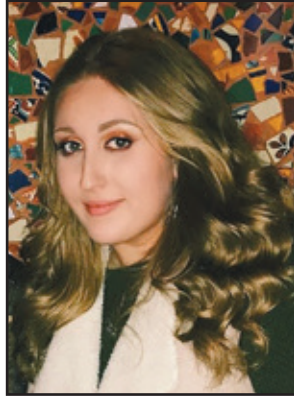
► Olivia Rudder

Olivia Rudder finishes her high school career at the top of her class and with a great attitude regarding her experience at Sleepy Hollow High School. She said she loves the Class of 2018 and the friendly competition that exists between her and her classmates.

Rudder has been involved in many activities at Sleepy Hollow High School, as well as in the Sleepy Hollow community. She is a co-creator and co-president of the Peer Mentoring Program at the high school, a co-president of the National Honor Society, and the captain of the Mock Trial team. In the community, she is a volunteer AYSO soccer coach for a girls' under-six team. Rudder commented on the various clubs and programs that she participated in at Sleepy Hollow, "Everything that I have been a part of has really made me into the person I am today, and I'm really happy," she said.

Rudder's ambition is driven by her ability and desire to push herself to learn and really understand as much as she can in school in order to perform as well as she can. Her favorite aspects of Sleepy Hollow High School are "the people, the sense of community, and the diversity of opinions and ideas."

Rudder will most likely be attending University of Virginia next fall, but she is still on the waiting list for other schools. She is strongly considering majoring in physics.



► Daniel Livingston

Daniel Livingston is extremely proud to be the salutatorian of Sleepy Hollow High School, and he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at SHHS. Livingston is grateful for the opportunities he had at Sleepy Hollow, from sports to clubs to music, and educational opportunities, such as being in the Dual Language Program and the Science Research Program.

Livingston's motivation comes from his love of learning and his desire to be the best person he can be. He ensures personal success by setting goals and working hard to achieve them, while still being spontaneous and enjoying life. He likes to have fun and joke around in class, but at the same time, he is an extremely hardworking and successful student.

Sleepy Hollow High School has benefitted from Livingston's drive and leadership in many different school groups. He was the Editor in Chief of *Hoofprints* (Sleepy Hollow's school newspaper); he was the captain of the varsity tennis team; and he was an officer of multiple honor societies.

Livingston will be attending Georgetown University in the fall. He will be majoring in science, technology, and international relations in the Georgetown School of Foreign Service.



Irvington High Valedictorian to Further Her Education at Brown

by Ruby Hanna

► Rachel Sklar

Rachel Sklar, Irvington High School's valedictorian, is the perfect representative of the motivation and passion for learning that best characterizes her generation.

National Honor Society member, winner of the Harvard Book Award, soon to be a student at Brown University, and flutist; Sklar's achievements paint a picture of hard work and dedication that easily explain her successes in such a broad range of areas.

Alongside a strong support system of family, teachers, and friends, she also said that as a longtime fan of the Harry Potter series, with the strong-willed and intelligent Hermione Granger as a personal hero, she has "always held [herself] either consciously or unconsciously, to [Hermione's] model of academic excellence."

Though the influence of pop culture is

nothing new in our technology-saturated society, to be so positively impacted by a literary figure speaks to Sklar's meaningful emotional connections to the years spent maintaining impeccable grades and excelling in and out of the classroom. With the idea of becoming valedictorian "not on the forefront" of her radar until recently, she further credited her grandmother – valedictorian of her own high school class – as a potential factor in her outstanding high school career.

The road to such a high honor as valedictorian is not an easy one, but Sklar recognizes the personal growth that had to occur to get her to where she is today. When asked what words of wisdom she has for those underclassmen wishing to follow in her



impressive footprints, she stressed the importance of leaving one's comfort zone and taking risks.

Some could view these words as cliché in such a place of learning and experimentation as high school; development cannot be solely academic. Though extremely afraid of public speaking, in her freshman year Sklar joined Irvington's Model UN team. Pushing oneself is no easy task, but the payoff, at least in Sklar's case, was major. Over time, participation in the club helped her conquer any such fears, and she has gone on to win numerous awards at many challenging conferences, in her senior year even becoming the group's Head Delegate.

"I think everyone should take advantage

of these types of opportunities," she said, "because they provide so much room for growth."

It's no secret that Irvington's Latin Program is much beloved, but for the school's valedictorian – a girl with many high level classes and incredible experiences under her belt – to consider her best academic decision thus far to be signing up for the course in ninth grade, is a true credit to the system.

"Teachers Michèle Cella and Jonathan Silverman have nourished my love for the subject and passion for academic excellence. Miss Cella has also been a role model and huge support for me over the past four years. I hope to love whatever I do someday as much as she loves Latin," Sklar said.

There's no doubt that success is in her cards, and as Sklar heads off at the end of the summer for Brown, she'll be leaving behind an academic legacy that will surely translate into a prosperous future.



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Dobbs Ferry Valedictorian Taking Year Off Before Harvard

by Anna Young

► Rebecca Cadenhead

Dobbs Ferry High School valedictorian Rebecca Cadenhead has experienced more in her academic career than most have in a lifetime.

Cadenhead has spent her adolescent years strictly focused on school and her many extra-curricular activities. The teen, who is currently interning with Marvel Comics as a writer, has studied satellites with NASA at the University of Texas, analyzed how microbiology correlates with diabetes at New York University, works with the high school's Science Research Program, plays violin with the school orchestra and jazz band, performed the harp at school concerts, and has played viola with the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Area-All State Orchestra.

"I used to sing but I figured that was too much," Cadenhead said. "It was a lot and I cut back."

The teen's dedication to science research was recognized earlier this year as she was named one of 300 scholars in the annual Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest science and math competition for high school seniors.

Cadenhead's project titled, "The Effects of the Gut Microbiota on Gene Expression Related to Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus," was completed with the guidance of Dr. Martin Blaser during her internship last year at NYU.

"What we realized was when we ingest antibiotics you end up killing off parts of your microbiome," the 17-year-old said. "That's correlated with a lot of health effects like obesity, asthma, anxiety, and diabetes."

The academic is no stranger to accolades. At 15 years old, her project titled "Improving Flood Predictions Through Analysis of Satellite Imagery," won her first place at the 2016 Genius Olympiad, an environmental international high school project competition.

Cadenhead's philosophy about keeping an open mind and trying new things rings true to her journey throughout school and her plans for the future. While the senior was accepted to Harvard University, she opted to take a year off before attending the prestigious school in 2019.

"I felt kind of burnt out," she said. "I really want to travel and take a break from being strictly academic."

With plans for the next year undecided, she said she'll go anywhere in the world that will allow her to volunteer her time, experience new things and become a certified sea instructor.

"I'd really do anything as long as it involved building things. I just want to experience life," Cadenhead said. "I think that would be a great time to see and do things I've never done before especially because I don't know what I want to do with my life. I'd rather figure out what I want to do before I go to school."

Cadenhead said she feels anxious, liberated and excited to start the next phase of her life. But with graduation nearing, she was humbled and surprised to learn she was named valedictorian.

"During my senior year I didn't get a lot of sleep, but I'm glad that I got the recognition," Cadenhead said. "I wasn't doing all of this with that goal in mind, but it's really nice to have it."



Hackley Senior to Pursue Career in Cyber Security at Stanford

by Pascaline Comas

► Jasmine Bayrooti

Jasmine Bayrooti is an outstanding young woman distinguished by her spirit and her life goals. At only 18 years old, the senior high school student, at Hackley School in Tarrytown, passionate about computer science, has been involved in many projects and will soon become a freshman at Stanford University. Although she wants to keep her career opportunities open, she is aiming to work in the cyber security field.

Last October, she had the opportunity to participate at the Round Square International Conference in Geneva with four other students from Hackley and two faculty members. Round Square is a global network of innovative schools in 50 countries on six continents that shares a passion for experiential learning and character education. It teaches students about current and future issues.

"We had speakers about the refugee crisis, we learned about environmental issues and I met so many people from all over the world. It was really amazing, and I broadened my world view," said Bayrooti. "It was really an eye-opening experience in that way to be exposed to all these global perspectives."

Bayrooti has participated, as well, in the peer tutoring program as a tutor in calculus and physics. She explained, "It was a nice way to integrate the grades and form relationships with younger students. It solidified my own knowledge of the material because when you are teaching something you really have to pass it on and you have to teach students in a way that is comprehensible so they can pick it up."

Above all, Bayrooti is passionate about computer science. Not only was she involved in a Robotic Club but in an innovative and very technical project. "I worked with Gunnar Carlsson, a professor who is actually at Stanford. The project is on the applications of algebraic topology which is a very theoretical branch of mathematics that studies shapes and high dimensions and characterizes them. I applied that to video compression and classifying different types of pseudo-random number generators. I also worked with a teacher, Keshena Richardson, who is my math teacher," explained Bayrooti.

This project could actually solve data record and compression issues in a very avant-garde way. This talented young scientist will no doubt be a favorite in the cyber security and data field. "Cybersecurity is a very important field as technology is advancing, and security techniques have to keep up with that," Bayrooti said.

Bayrooti feels fully prepared for college. After many years as a home-schooled student, she said Hackley gave her the opportunity to explore an interactive environment with students and teachers as well. The school's educational atmosphere stimulates interactions and project work between students and teachers. For Bayrooti, that is the most important thing she learned for the future; stay accessible for everybody and do not be afraid to ask anybody.

"I am very excited to work at Stanford with a world-renowned professor," she said.

When asked what advice she would give to high school students preparing for college, she replied, "Follow your dream, work hard and pursue what interests you."



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Hudson Independent Forum Examines Current State of Journalism

by Robert Kimmel

It was clear from the beginning of *The Hudson Independent's* Warner Library forum, entitled "Invasion of the Truth Snatchers: American Journalism in an Age of Bubbles, Tweets and Fake News," that the state of the news business is not good. "The changes that have taken place in American journalism in recent decades, the shrinking of what were once powerful news organizations and the fragmentation of media," said Barrett Seaman, chair of the newspaper's editorial board and moderator of a panel of media experts, are all indicators of a troubled sector of American democracy.

The May 23rd panel, the first in a series planned by the newspaper, included Tarrytown resident Mary Rasenberger, currently Executive Director of the Authors Guild and the Authors Guild Foundation and an attorney by training; William Grueskin, Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia University's School of Journalism and a veteran newspaperman; and Jon Scott, host of Fox News' morning show, *Happening Now* and one of Fox's original anchors. Both Grueskin and Scott have lived in Irvington. In addition to his work for the *Independent*, Seaman had a 30-year career as a correspondent and editor at *Time* magazine.

The panel focused on the mechanics and economics of journalism but also included

a lengthy discussion of "fake news—what it is, whether it was new, how it is spread, and what we can do to recognize it and combat it," as Seaman framed the discussion..

Panelist Mary Rasenberger described the contraction of traditional news organizations, particularly print media. Rasenberger, an expert in media law, stated, "Journalism is in crisis today." Advertising revenue, she observed, decreased from \$49 billion in 2006 to \$18 billion in 2016. "Major newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* have had many layoffs and buyouts," she said. "The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that newspaper jobs declined from 1990 to 2016 by 50%. Advertisers go where the eyeballs are. People have shifted from reading newspapers to getting their news on the Internet, on Facebook and Google, which '...don't care about content.'" This, she observed, has led to a "huge decline in quality, not just in quantity."

Seaman recalled how print media payroll cuts threatened accuracy in news reporting. Over the years, he said, *Time* magazine had cut its research staff, leaving writers to fact check their stories themselves—at the same time that news cycles were going "from weekly, to daily, to hourly, and now nano-secondly."

"We hear a lot about fake news these days," panelist William Grueskin said before he showed a series of videos of fake news stories. In addition to transforming

Columbia's curriculum in video and digital journalism, Grueskin was an executive editor at *Bloomberg* overseeing digital-platform training of the global news staff, and was also deputy managing editor at the *Wall Street Journal*.

"Journalists get things wrong facing deadlines, but they don't get things wrong intentionally," said Grueskin. "However, there are people out there who are doing these things intentionally. And politicians like to call things fake news that are actually true but that they don't like."

"Fake news goes back a long time," Grueskin told the gathering, as he showed a bogus *New York Sun* series in 1835 about scientists discovering life on Mars. Contemporary fake news videos, from such phony Internet sites as ABCnews.com.co, Denver Guardian, and Weekly World News drew both groans and laughs from the audience.

Grueskin also displayed graphs providing statistical evidence of the spiraling rise of both fabricated and biased news. "News organizations no longer have the control of their content as they used to 20 years ago," he said. "If you wanted to watch something from CBS News, you had to watch it on CBS News. Nowadays it can be distributed on Google or Facebook." During the last presidential campaign, fake news distribution and the audience for Internet sites "shot up," Grueskin said. Illustrating how very easy it is to distort the news today, he

showed a clip in which false words, closely resembling Barack Obama's speech pattern, were dubbed onto a video of his speech.

Panelist Jon Scott described being recruited to Fox News by its founding CEO, Roger Ailes, who (correctly) predicted that his news network would "knock off" CNN as the number one news network in five years. Scott, who covered 9/11, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and was an Emmy award-winning writer while at *Dateline NBC*, cited eastern seaboard insularity as part of the reason for Fox's rise to number one. "News has always emanated from New York or Washington, but there is a great big country out there and a lot of people didn't feel that their attitudes were represented by the news they were watching on television," he explained.

"Since Trump came on the scene, tune to MSNBC and then Fox News, and it's like two different worlds," Seaman explained, then asked Scott, "Is that intentional?" Scott noted his mid-day program was an effort to deliver a straight newscast, and that he did not want to "delve too much into our evening 'opinion block.'" However, Scott noted, "There are a lot of people in the country who believe in what Donald Trump is doing, and they have a right to their opinion...and they turn to Fox."

Regarding the rise of the Internet as an information source, Scott said, "In another ten years, will there be a CBS Evening

Continued on page 11



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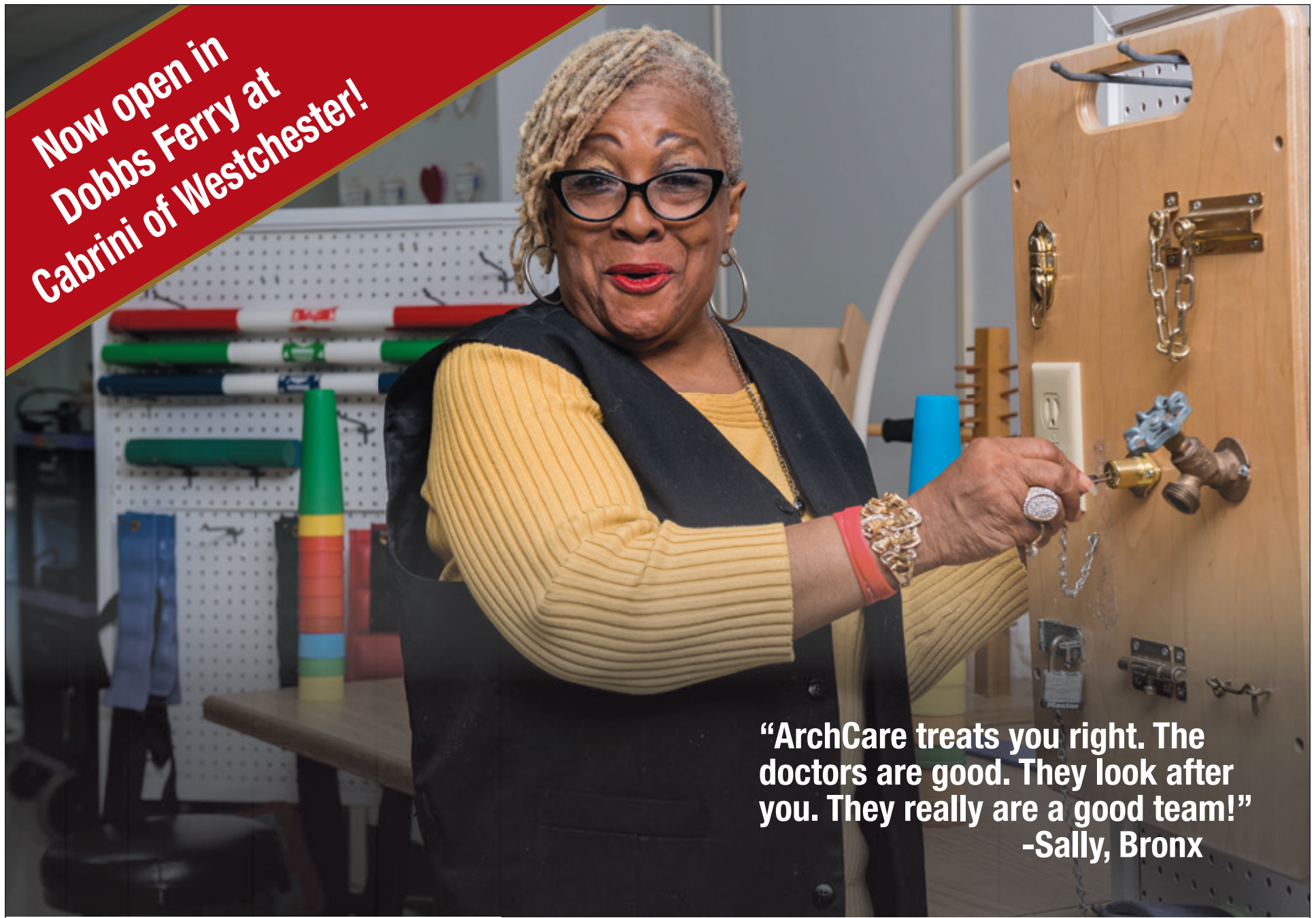
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New Rivertowns Chamber Spreads Its Wings and Begins to Show Its Clout

by Barrett Seaman

Nick Campbell has trouble saying “No.” Having only just opened his insurance business in Irvington last year, he went to an event put on by the irrepressible Maggie Segrich, who was promoting the idea of forming a new four-village chamber of commerce in the river towns. Segrich had revived the Chamber of Commerce in Dobbs Ferry after she moved her bespoke jewelry business there from Irvington and was recruiting from neighboring villages in the belief that a consortium would have more clout than any single village chamber. When Campbell showed some interest, she immediately asked him to join her board.

Then Deputy Mayor Connie Kehoe asked him if he would run the 2018 Celebrate Irvington Day. Again, he said yes. Then Joyce Chapnick, Principal of Irvington’s Main Street School, asked if he would take on the task of building a new playground for the school, one that had been partially funded by an Irvington Education Foundation grant. Again, the answer was “Yes.”

The playground, to be built using volunteer labor in early June, is one of several projects taken on by the new Rivertowns Chamber of Congress, with chapters in Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Ardsley. When Maggie Segrich and her family moved to



Hastings’ Michelle Adams (holding flowers) and Irvington’s Nick Campbell take the reins of the new Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce from founder Maggie Segrich.

North Carolina this spring, she handed over leadership to the new chapter heads, which included Nick Campbell in Irvington, Michelle Adams, private dining manager at Hastings’ Bistro St. George, and Dennis O’Brien, proprietor of Celtic Corner Bar & Grill in Dobbs Ferry.

In a display of the new group’s potential clout, Michelle Adams put together a meeting of Warburton Avenue’s business owners, the Hastings Village Manager and Police Chief and representatives of Con Edison to persuade the utility to speed up a street repair project that had cut business traffic in half. By getting the village to approve work on weekends, they succeeded in getting the

project finished up in time for the annual Memorial Day parade.

Campbell’s next challenge will be in pulling off an ambitious Celebrate Irvington Day on June 23rd. In addition to dedicating the playground, which features a teepee-like rope play structure called a “pentagode,” the day will hold a vintage car show, in which some 30-to-40 classic autos will be on display in the Main Street parking lot, an art exhibit,

a mural painting, balloon sculpting, face painting, sidewalk chalk drawing, a tour of the fire department, a police fingerprinting demonstration, a band in front of Sunnyside Savings & Loan and food up and down Main Street. Eileen Fisher, who has been a major contributor, will open up her Labs on Bridge Street and offer a “Mindfulness Experience.” Student winners of a contest to produce the best public service video promoting pedestrian safety will be announced. A trolley, sponsored by the Historical Society, will shuttle celebrants up and down Main Street all day.

One of the roles the new Rivertowns Chamber has taken upon itself is to coor-

dinate such events so that villages don’t compete with one another. They have already worked out a calendar for the fall so that Irvington’s Roctoberfest, scheduled for September 29, will not overlap with similar events in Dobbs Ferry and Hastings.

Promotion of such events and projects like the playground all fit the model espoused by the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, whose President and CEO, Mark Jaffe, has attended many of the new Rivertown Chamber’s meetings. “Businesses in a community can only be as good as the community itself,” said Jaffe, who is schooling the Rivertowns leadership in best ways to develop contacts with local and state governments. He notes that this is the first multi-town chamber in the area. With representatives from each village, they are forming committees—governmental relations, transportation and beautification, for example.

By year’s end, Campbell hopes the organization will have hired a new, paid executive director to take on day-to-day chores, as is typical of most chambers. To do that, he will need to meet another year-end goal, which is to double the group’s current membership of 106. Dues range from \$75-a-year for sole proprietors to over \$1,000 for large employers like Eileen Fisher.



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TSO Raises Awareness for Life Saving Organ Transplant Donations

by Robert Kimmel

Faced with serious health problems, Sleepy Hollow resident Len Andrew's resolve to undergo kidney transplantation twice led him to successfully overcome those problems. These experiences also inspired him to become an active member of the local Transplant Support Organization, (TSO), and he remains a member of its Board of Directors.

The non-profit group is devoted to raising the public's awareness of all types of organ transplants and the need for organ donations, as well as providing support for those awaiting transplant operations. It meets monthly at the Greenburgh Health Center.

Andrew encountered his first problem in 1981, when, as the father of two young daughters, he was informed he had kidney failure. Following a demanding regimen of going to a hemodialysis center three times a week while continuing his work as an attorney, he urged his doctor to have him listed on a transplant waiting list. After what Andrew described as "only eight months on the waiting list," he underwent a transplant at Montefiore Hospital, with doctors using a kidney from a young woman who had died in an auto accident.

Twenty-eight years later, blood tests indicated that Andrew would require hemodialysis again, as noted by his physician; however, he once again sought successfully to be placed on a waiting list to replace his failing earlier transplanted kidney. An unknown, "altruistic" donor offered his kidney, Andrew related, as well as did his own wife, Helen. "Two amazing people," he called them. But neither met the required match.

Following an unusually short four



Sleepy Hollow resident Len Andrew

month wait, an uncommon situation led to Andrew receiving a transplanted kidney at Mount Sinai Hospital. He had learned that he had contracted Hepatitis C from blood transfusions in 1981, but the disease, undiagnosed for many years, did not damage his liver as the virus most often does. He was told that a kidney infected with Hepatitis C would not harm him and would be more readily available. He received his second kidney transplant in December 2010. The matched kidney came from a man who lost his life in an auto accident just outside Philadelphia.

"If not for the transplants, I would be dead," Andrew said. "It is very important for people to understand the value of transplants and the importance of registering as a donor so that your information stays with you." He noted the Transplant Support Organization's persistence in successfully lobbying Albany legislators to pass rules allowing people as young as 16, when registering for a driver's permit, to pledge their organs, with parental consent. At 18, they do not need that consent. Last

year, Governor Cuomo signed legislation and executive orders designed to increase organ donations in the state.

On any given day, there are about 115,000 people in the United States waiting for a transplant organ, with kidneys heading the list - 95,000 needed, followed by the liver at approximately 14,000, and with the heart, lung, pancreas and intestine completing the list. More than 33,000 transplant operations are performed annually. Within every 18 hours in New York State, on average, someone dies waiting for an organ transplant.

Last year marked the 20th anniversary of the TSO, with 90% of its membership residing in Westchester, according to its Co-President, Ira Copperman. It has regional offices in other areas as well. He noted that he and Andrew have been associated with the organization for more than 10 years. Copperman's wife, Glenda, also a member, is a transplant recipient, having received simultaneously a kidney and pancreas 18 years ago. Both Copperman and his wife have been actively involved speaking at schools, churches and before other groups about the need for transplant organs, and as he described it, high school students "are very receptive to this issue." Many of them ask, "Why wouldn't we donate?" he said.

The TSO has about 80 dues-paying members, but it reaches up to as many as 400 persons who receive its newsletter and who come to meetings and other events, Copperman related. He said the meetings keep members informed of "the latest and the greatest techniques in the transplant world." Members primarily are those waiting for a transplant or who have been recipients of a transplanted organ. Copperman explained that the TSO also "offers emotional support for those waiting for

transplants." As for potential donors, he noted, "We try to reinforce the most important thing: that they tell their families their end-of-life wishes and that they communicate to their loved ones that they wish to be an organ donor."

An annual TSO scholarship is being awarded this month to Lauren Shields, a high school senior at Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia, New York, for taking on a project "to raise the awareness and enhance the perception of organ transplants." The New York State Organ Donor Registration Law, called Lauren's Law, is named for Lauren, who received a heart transplant at the age of nine, noted Andrew, who chairs the TSO Scholarship Committee.

"I have been very blessed," Andrew emphasized. "I would not be here if that in the 1980s someone had not given their organs when they died, and likewise again eight years ago." While he has been officially retired since 1999 from important legal positions at IBM and corporate law, he still practices in not-for-profit corporate law and has been heavily involved in a wide variety of community activities. He has served on the Family YMCA in Tarrytown Board and was its chairman, and he has been an active member of the Rotary. He has been a past president at Kendal on Hudson, where he now resides, and a board member of the RSHM Life Center, the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, the Foundation for Religion and Mental Health, and other groups. Andrew has been the recipient of many awards.

"I've been fortunate," he commented.

For more information regarding organ transplant donations, and the TSO, visit The Hudson Independent website, www.thehudsonindependent.com.

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by Maria Ann Roglieri

Tarrytown Resident Honored

Tarrytown resident James W. Cobb was recently honored by the Westchester Region NAACP ACT-SO Coalition at its 35th Annual Community Service Award Breakfast. The event was held at The Riverview at Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. ACT-SO is an acronym for Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological-Scientific Olympics, which is a major youth initiative of the NAACP. Because of his interest in the scholastic achievement of young people, he has enjoyed community volunteer activity in that area. He is married to Dr. Mary E. Lane and they are the parents of three adult children, Lane Leslie Cobb, Keith Hamilton Cobb, and Dr. Pamela Griffin Cobb.



James Cobb

accolade. We are very proud that he is representing Sleepy Hollow." Gary submitted 10 of his paintings and drawings with individual essays as part of the national competition. 757 winners in a variety of artistic fields were selected from over 7,600 applications, and only 12 winners were visual artists like Gary. The winners spent a week in New York City in April visiting art studios and meeting professional artists. "It is an experience of a lifetime to network with these artists and receive professional guidance and to be recognized," Gary said.

Life Saving Awards

TVAC members Joseph Orsini, Jill Swanson, Mary Kohrher, Michael Farley and Simon Cohen received 2017 Life Saving Awards at the Westchester Regional EMS Awards Ceremony May 17 at Purchase College.

Blum to be Honored at Y Masquerade Ball

The Family Y at Tarrytown will present the Laurance S. Rockefeller Award for Service to our Community, to Phelps Hospital and its President and CEO, Daniel J. Blum at the 10th Annual Y Halloween Masquerade Ball, on September 28, at the Tarrytown House and Estate. Please join the Y in congratulating Phelps Hospital and Dan Blum by participating in the event.

Sleepy Hollow YoungArts Winner

Sleepy Hollow High School senior William Gary was chosen as a 2018 National YoungArts Winner. The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) provided SHHS with an engraved plaque last month recognizing his accomplishments. "He has had quite a year," said SHHS Principal Dr. Tracy Smith. "He has won accolade after

Forum

Continued from page 6

News or an NBC Nightly News; I doubt it. In another 20 years, will there be CNN and Fox News? I'm not sure. The penetration of the Internet could kill cable news. The major networks will have to fight for their survivals as newspapers are now."

Responding to Seaman's question as to how fake news might be curtailed and greater trust restored to news organizations,

Rasenberger proposed licensing journalists as a way of assuring more accurate reporting, whether by the government or through a less formal "seal of approval."

At the conclusion, members of the audience posed questions and offered opinions. The forum can be seen in its entirety on this newspaper's website: www.thehudsonindependent.com.

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Roles Reverse as an EF Host Family Is Hosted Abroad

by Constance Kehoe

Flying over the Alps for the fourth time in two weeks, heading home to Irvington from Geneva, the tune from "Both Sides Now" came into my head. Our former EF "daughter" Selma Memic whom my husband Kevin and I hosted in our home two years ago, had said goodbye to us the day before at the airport, after she had just hosted and guided us on an exhilarating journey through Switzerland, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia.

Nine students from EF (Education First, an international school of language and culture with a large campus in Tarrytown) have lived with us in our Irvington home over the past seven years. All have stayed in touch via Facebook with me; but Selma, in a role reversal, became our host.

As a host family, we delighted in introducing our EF girls to Halloween candy duty in October and family Thanksgivings in November. But Selma was, and remains, passionately interested in U.S. and international politics. In the summer of 2016 she asked for our help in getting involved with the Hillary Clinton campaign, and this we did gladly.

Over time, we learned how the Clinton family was entwined with Selma's family roots in Bosnia. She once sat us down in our basement to watch a documentary about Richard Holbrooke, whom Bill Clinton named as America's envoy during the 1992-95 War in the former Yugoslavia, and



Irvington Deputy Mayor Connie Kehoe (right) and husband Kevin Weber with Selma Memic in Switzerland.

how he worked relentlessly to protect the vulnerable populations under threat of being slaughtered by the government of Slobodan Milosevic.

Months after Selma returned from New York to her home country of Switzerland, I received a soulful email from her. She had stayed up through the night of our November election and was devastated by the results. "How could this happen?" she wanted to know. It was then that we agreed to visit her some day and have since kept in close

touch as she studied international relations at the University of Geneva.

Prior to our visit, I casually asked if she could look at my Ancestry.com research and see if we could visit some of the places my Swiss relatives once lived. This she did with the rigor of a senior thesis. My great grandfather, Samuel Messerli, emigrated from the German-speaking area of Switzerland. Selma located the church he attended, spoke with Brigitte, the church secretary, made a date for us to visit the church and arranged to have Christian Wengler, the current church president, act as our guide. On top of all that, she did all the driving, getting us to and from the idyllic Swiss village of Blumenstein. After cheese and coffee with the Wenglers, Selma and Kevin walked up toward the mountain waterfall above the church, and I wandered the graveyard.

All our gestures to assist her back in New York seemed to pale in comparison, but not to her. At her request we helped her polish her already excellent English language skills, padding her vocabulary with idioms like "white knuckle driving." The simple human experience of engaging in face-to-face conversation was a gift we now know we provided.

Our journey with Selma included three days in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, followed by four days in neighboring Croatia. From the moment she grabbed the first taxi (speaking Bosnian, of course), we knew we were on a journey that would have been impossible without a personal guide. We traveled to the home her parents recently built on the outskirts of this city where we greeted family friends across the street. Selma was bubbling with enthusiasm as she introduced us to the country of her parents and grandparents, where she spent many summers during her childhood.

In attempting to recount the experiences of the individuals and families whom we met over these five days—men and women who experienced war, sieges and genocide just 20 years ago, I run the danger of trivializing them. However, it was our intention as well as Selma's to help us and others better understand this tragic period. That included a heartbreaking trip with Selma and her neighbor, a survivor who lost his father, to the town of Srebrenica, the site of the worst war crime in Europe since WWII.

With a friend of Selma's father's cousin as our driver and commentator, we drove around the city of Sarajevo and started up into the hills surrounding the city where Milosevic's army set up artillery to pick off the civilians who ventured out onto the streets. As he pointed out the buildings left half-burned and riddled with bullet holes, we could tell how personal and painful this was for him. Selma, translating quickly, always reported on the friendliness and generosity of the Bosnians she knew and loved.

Selma, we learned, was always interested in expanding her own knowledge of this painful war that her family had experienced. She was born after the war in Switzerland, the country to which her parents escaped and where they met. To this end, she organized a visit for all of us to the newly opened secret wartime tunnel in Sarajevo. This tunnel provided the only entry point for food and other supplies for four years into this city.

As the days in Bosnia went by, Selma's interest in Richard Holbrooke and president Bill Clinton became clear to us. During the siege of this lovely city, several of Holbrooke's colleagues were killed attempting to descend into the city via a treacherous mountain road Selma pointed out to us. Looking up at that road, where hidden mines were a constant threat to travelers during the war, we imagined that dangerous U.S. mission as we crouched down in the damp tunnel through which wounded civilians were carried on stretchers, and milk products were secreted in to feed infants.

I imagine Selma, with her passions and compassion, one day becoming a diplomat, working in the Holbrooke model—coupled with 21st century ingenuity. Selma speaks French, German, Italian, Bosnian/Croatian and English. Kevin and I take pride in the modest way we helped fine-tune her English skills and her knowledge of American culture by sharing our Irvington home and neighborhood with her. Now she is also studying Russian at Geneva University.

Both sides now? One small step for mankind? A new generation committed to world understanding? We have renewed hope. Thank you, Selma.

Constance (Connie) Kehoe and her husband Kevin Weber live in Irvington, where she serves as a Trustee and Deputy Mayor.



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Viewfinder

1. Onlookers watch one of the races during the Family YMCA's Healthy Kids Day and the Rotary of the Tarrytowns' annual Duck Derby at Patriot's Park in April.

— Photo by: Rick Pezzullo

2. Little Gardens Club, Pearl Harbor Survivor Chick Galella (left) and the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Girl Scouts took part in Memorial Day planting.

3. Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Council (TEAC) helped clean up Losee Park on Earth Day.

4. Local officials, TaSH leadership and volunteers welcomed a big crowd of shoppers to Farmers Market Opening Day festivities.

— Photos by: Sunny McLean



Sports

Running Takes Sleepy Hollow Junior to Record Heights

by Tom Pedulla

Max Cover began competing in track at Sleepy Hollow High School to improve his endurance as a soccer midfielder. He never imagined that running would take him to record heights.

Cover broke two school records this year as a junior, demolishing the mark for 1,000 meters by 10 seconds with a time of 2:34 during the indoor season. "I think it is a very competitive record," he said. "It's going to take a while for somebody to break that."

This spring, after putting behind a nagging hip injury, he lowered the school record for 800 meters to 1:59.01.

The sport has helped to teach the 5-10, 150-pound Cover to be strong mentally while pushing his physical limitations.

"It takes a lot of effort to go back onto that track after I've almost thrown myself into the ground," he said. "It's worth it when I see my time drop and set a record. It's a wonderful feeling."

It may be a wonderful feeling at the end of many races. Never during them.

"No matter what race I run, it's always painful. It's always immensely painful," Cover said. "Your legs, your lungs, especially indoors because the air is always poor. Your head hurts because you're overheating. Your arms are sore. Your chest hurts. It's a full body ache."

Part of what separates Cover is his ability to withstand that.

"Talented distance runners are able to tolerate pain better than their competition," said Paul Gersfeld, his coach at Sleepy Hollow. "He can do that very well. He is always able to dig down a little deeper than most of his competition."

Gersfeld, who completed his 21st season at the school, added, "He's a very competitive young man. He does not like to lose. He will take as much pain as it takes to beat whoever he is running against."

Cover's success starts at practice, where he demands a great deal of himself and takes few days off. He chose to run instead

"Talented distance runners are able to tolerate pain better than their competition. He [Max Cover] can do that very well."

—Paul Gersfeld,
coach at Sleepy Hollow

of standing around as he waited for a reporter to arrive. "You have to have pain to get better," he said. "It's very, very challenging because motivation has to come mostly from yourself."

Gersfeld praised Cover for his versatility, noting his ability to compete from 200 meters up to much greater distances. "If I put him in the two-mile, he would probably beat everyone in the two-mile," the coach said. "He can really do it all."

Gersfeld described the 800-meter event as Cover's "sweet spot."

"It is a combination of speed and endurance. It is half a mile, going all out," he

said. "He is a fast runner and a very strong runner."

Cover also drives himself to great heights in the classroom. At last check, he ranked fourth in the junior class with a 4.0 grade-point average while taking advanced courses.

"I'm very competitive. Ranking high always drives me to do more," he said. "If I can do more, I don't want to settle for doing just the bare minimum." Brown currently tops the list of schools he is interested in for college.

His senior year has the potential to be special on the track. "The next season, if he really focuses, his times can dramatically drop," Gersfeld said. He believes the 800-meter record could be lowered by as many as four seconds to 1:55.

Cover cannot wait to see how much more he can accomplish. "I'll be that much bigger, that much stronger," he said. "It's very, very exciting. I can bring down these times even more. I did not expect going into this year to be breaking records."

Irvington Senior Credits Dance Skills with Achieving Success in Girls Lacrosse

by Tom Pedulla

Elizabeth Segreti was inspired as a child by "Swan Lake," a ballet about a princess transformed into a swan by an evil sorcerer. She began learning ballet when she was three years old and continued to perform through middle school.

Although her appreciation for dance remained, she yearned to be part of something bigger than herself as she grew older.

"I did want to be part of a team and have the support of everyone around you," she said, "because ballet and dance is very individual, for the most part."

Her brother, Adam, played lacrosse for Irvington High School. He began working with her to develop her skills, particularly



Elizabeth Segreti had 45 goals in 2018.

the need for his right-handed sister to become much more comfortable holding the stick in her left hand so that she could represent a scoring threat from that side.

"If a defense knows you are mostly a right-handed player, they will force you to use your left hand," Segreti said. "If you have no skill on that side, you will never be able to work with it and score."

Segreti learned to score, all right. She closed her four-year varsity career at Irvington with 115 goals and 45 assists, including 45 goals and 14 assists as a senior, while earning the admiration of her coach, Patrick DiBenedetto, and teammates.

"She put the time and work in that allowed her to achieve this milestone," said DiBenedetto while noting her attendance at clinics since middle school.

Segreti's speed was a tremendous asset to her as a midfielder who also met her defensive responsibilities. She credits years on the dance floor with helping to improve her balance when she was under heavy defensive pressure. She also had a knack for scooping up loose balls off the draw.

"She's always been a go-to player as far as advancing the ball and creating scoring opportunities for us," DiBenedetto said. "She's determined. You can see it in her eyes when she plays."

Segreti served as a team captain with fellow seniors Olivia Valdes and Brianna Havraniak. Junior Maria Mascone was the final captain.

DiBenedetto credited Segreti with helping to make sure the underclassmen were committed to winter league games, an important developmental tool.

"I do try to make them feel included because I wanted that when I was a freshman," Segreti said.

It was a season of milestones for the Bulldogs, who finished with a 12-5 record, highlighted by an opening-round victory against Rye Neck in the playoffs. Valdes, also a midfielder, netted her 160th goal. More impressive than that, though, was her willingness to do everything possible to involve underclassmen in the offense.

"Her role was more about the team, solidifying our attack as a whole and keeping everyone working together," DiBenedetto said. "She's been very conscious of the future of the program."

Although Cameron Soravilla got involved with lacrosse relatively late, joining the junior varsity as a sophomore, she quickly made up for lost time. She produced her 200th career save as part of her senior season.

"She has that mentality of being assertive," the coach said. "Her will, her personality, allowed her to accelerate the learning process."

Segreti lamented how quickly her final season went by. She is set to enroll at McGill University in Montreal. Her mother and other family members graduated from that school. Segreti hopes to play lacrosse at the club level there.

When Segreti looks back, she said she would not change a thing. She is equally grateful for the time she devoted to ballet, which taught discipline and attention to detail, and to lacrosse, which brought camaraderie she will always cherish.

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Where We Worship: The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington

by Barrett Seaman

The old joke is that Episcopalians have their own Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not eat thine entrée with a salad fork.

Once the church of choice for the country's cultural and political elite, the Episcopal Church, the American branch of the worldwide Anglican Communion, has long been tagged as an enclave for wealthy white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants—or WASPs.

In its early days, dating back to the mid-19th century, the Church of St. Barnabas in Irvington fit that profile locally. When longtime parishioner General Philip Schuyler died in 1906, J. P. Morgan came by private rail car to attend his funeral. Jay Gould, who owned nearby Lyndhurst Mansion, worshipped at St. Barnabas and donated land for its expansion. The church's founder, the Reverend John McVickar, after whom the Irvington Historical Society's headquarters is named, was a frequent dinner companion of the writer Washington Irving.

While not nearly as insular and exclusive as that today, St. Barnabas—and for that matter the Episcopal Church as a whole—has begun to tiptoe into the larger universe around it. Among the 430 members of the congregation are blacks, Hispanics, people of Jewish descent and ex-Catholics. Less than half of those who worship there were raised in the Episcopal Church. “We view ourselves as faithful and accepting of a wide variety of theological beliefs,” states the church's recently released Parish Profile, a document created as part of a lengthy process to find a new rector to replace the Rev. Nora Smith. She was the church's first female rector who moved to a new ministry last year after serving seven years. Before her arrival, the much-beloved Charles Colwell served as rector for 36 years.

While not “evangelical” in the sense of actively proclaiming “the good news of Jesus Christ” on local street corners, parishioners at St. Barnabas are increasingly engaged in reaching outside their gray stone Gothic Revival confines on North Broadway. They do so mostly through individual participation in outside charities but collectively through a couple of thrift sales that have earned regional renown, both for providing clothing and household goods to those who can't afford to buy retail and by donating the con-

siderable proceeds to local charities.

Changing parish priests, or rectors, in the Episcopal Church involves a lengthy transition period during which a Search Committee runs focus groups and conducts surveys of its members in an effort to tease out attitudes, expectations, strengths and weaknesses. The resulting Parish Profile, a kind of self analysis-cum-advertisement for a new rector, is then circulated by the national church, inviting Episcopal priests from across the nation and sometimes from abroad to apply for the job, or in the parlance of the church, “answer the call.”

That is where St. Barnabas finds itself now, in the midst of a process that began last year; the Search Committee recently narrowed its field of prospective candidates, to a short list of ten and is currently interviewing them. Meanwhile, services are led by an interim pastor, appointed by the Diocese of New York which oversees parishes in the New York metropolitan area (except Long Island). Serving as interim at St. Barnabas for the past year has been the Rev. Allison Moore, Ph.D., a priest from New Jersey who, in addition to leading a parish in Ft. Lee for 18 years, has served two other times as an interim. Her charge, as she sees it, is to “help the parish see who they are” during the transition.

Physically and fiscally, St. Barnabas is healthy. A pair of capital campaigns during the past 15 years has allowed the church to maintain and upgrade its historically significant buildings, which include the 160-year-old church itself, a parish hall and adjoining two-story school building, as well as a 12-room rectory, where the rector and family reside. The campaigns also created a Permanent Property Trust and other capital accounts that totaled \$1.7 million at the end of 2017—a comfortable endowment for a church that size.

Beyond participating in the weekly 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services, St. Barnabas parishioners are involved in a variety of internal and external “ministries.” More than 90% of them are engaged in programs like Midnight Run that delivers food and clothing to the homeless in New York City, the Yonkers Food Pantry, REPAIR (Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action and Inclusion on Race), a Hudson Valley racial consciousness-raising effort anchored at St. Barnabas, and

Rhythms of Grace, a monthly service that allows young people on the autism spectrum to participate in a relaxed and loosely structured spiritual environment.

The church's greatest exposure is through its two annual sales. Nearly everyone in the church (along with dozens of local residents who are not members) participate in one way or another in the herculean task of collecting, sorting and selling donated clothing for a sale each fall and one for just about everything else (except electronics) in the spring. In recent years, combined annual proceeds have exceeded \$100,000, 80 percent of which is passed on to local charities. This spring's Thrift Sale was held May 11-12, when hundreds of shoppers, many from low-income communities up and down the Hudson, poured in in search of furniture, equipment, toys and clothing they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Overall, average Sunday attendance has declined modestly in recent years—in part because many families go away on summer weekends, but for other reasons that are not so easy to identify. But through this and the previous period of transition, the core congregation has learned that there is a spiritual and personal bond that binds them in a community of trust. If there is an illness or death within the church family, help in

terms of meals and transportation is there. When one parishioner faced possible deportation, fellow congregants prepared documents and provided support at hearings.

“Lots of people are involved in good works,” observed Rev. Moore, “—less so the church as an institution.” Other parishes she has observed not only contribute time and money to soup kitchens, HIV support groups and day care centers, they also operate them from within. “The question for the congregation and for the new rector,” she said, is “Do we want to engage more in the world?”

That question occupies the church's lay leadership as well. “We are already a parish that is identified with a lot of community outreach,” said Burnett “Jody” Hansen, currently one of two wardens who chair the 14-member vestry that manages St. Barnabas's worldly affairs. “But our parishioners are asking questions like: ‘How can we increase our outreach? How can we make a bigger difference in our community?’” Some time in the coming months, a new rector for an old church will join that challenge.

Editor's Note: the writer is a longtime parishioner and former warden of St. Barnabas.



YMCA Dance performers were in attendance at the annual Sleepy Hollow 100 College Arms planting day.

—Photo by Sunny McLean

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Arts & Entertainment

Bethany Arts Community Caters to Artists of All Ages and Disciplines

by W.B. King

In the fall of 2015, David Lyons had a vision—a mission—to create an environment where various forms of art could be learned, produced, shared and celebrated. His goal came to fruition in January 2018 when the Bethany Arts Community (BAC) made its debut.

“Because we only recently opened our doors, the people and artists who find us—it has been a very organic process,” said Lyons, a Sleepy Hollow resident and BAC’s founder, chairman of the board and executive director.

Lyons, who wears many hats—from running the coat check to washing dishes—noted that artists of all ages and levels of experience are “welcome to explore and create art that the community can experience and be engaged in.” BAC, he added, was de-

signed “to inspire sharing, connection and collaboration” that benefits the local community and beyond.

BAC to the Future

Situated on 25 acres in Ossining, the not-for-profit BAC’s campus consists of one building that encompasses 44,000 square feet. Originally owned by the Maryknoll Foreign Mission Sisters of St. Dominic, who built the original convent structure (Bethany Rest House) in 1925, a three-story dormitory, dining wing and chapel were added in 1951.

“Maryknoll had two campuses in Ossining, and this was the much smaller of the two—not the more famous one with the Asian architecture,” said Lyons, who noted that the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers took over the property in 1958. By 1979, the building was designated for the lay mis-

sionary program.

The former chapel now serves as a 99-seat performance space. BAC has 27 individual art studios and can accommodate up to 27 people overnight. Along with teaching spaces, workshops and galleries, there is a commercial kitchen and cafeteria as well as a 1,560-square-foot rehearsal and performance space with a sprung floor. Additionally, the grounds, which include a fruit orchard and expansive lawns, are home to a growing sculpture garden.

“Bethany is a special place and a very much needed asset to the community as a whole. We have the ability to provide so much to artists of all levels and in all disciplines,” said Tarrytown resident Laurie Birrittella, a financial executive who is on BAC’s board and serves as its treasurer.

“Bethany has the feel of a real retreat, a place to get away from the normal day-to-

day bustle of life and experience a peaceful setting, which helps inspire those who come to learn and create art,” added Birrittella.

Programs in June and July include a performance of “The Sting,” and the Summer Solstice Concert will be performed by the Cassatt String Quartet that will delight the audience with renditions of Borodin String Quartet No. 2 in D major and Haydn String Quartet Op 76 No 4 Sunrise.

“I am excited about everything we are doing, but very much looking forward to the very first of our summer camp programs and seeing the space filled with the youngest of artists,” said Birrittella.

BAC, she explained, will feature two summer camp programs: Theater O’s Camp of Witchcraft and Wizardry that will run three one-week sessions in July for ages eight and older and Scribble Art Workshop out of

Continued on page 18

Warner Library Tapped to “Revisit the Founding Era”

by Elaine Marranzano

In 1787, Alexander Hamilton grew so frustrated with the Constitutional debate about states’ rights versus a central government, he threw up his hands. “This is never going to work,” he proclaimed. “We’ll just be fighting about who has ultimate power over issues forever.” Of course, he was right.

Today’s political rancor and the bluster of the modern-day far-right were born in the Colonial period. Now, a new national initiative aims to connect the dots between past and present political rhetoric and raise questions about the fundamental nature of democracy in the United States. Funded by the National Endowment of the Humani-

ties, 100 libraries, including the Warner Library in Tarrytown, have been selected to participate in the three-year program called “Revisiting the Founding Era.”

“What binds us together is not a shared faith or common ethnicity, but our country’s founding principles,” said Julie Silverbrook, executive director of the Constitutional Sources Project, speaking at the program’s kick-off event in Philadelphia. “We have to go back to those ideas.”

An initiative of the Gilder Lehrman Institute and Library of America, “Revisiting the Founding Era” will examine 18th Century letters and documents in town hall events to reveal the way history looked to people who were actually living it at the time – not just

“stodgy old white men.”

“We will be examining documents that show us how people like women or enslaved persons experienced the Revolution,” said Maureen Petry, director, Warner Library. “They didn’t necessarily have a vote, but they still influenced what happened.”

An example is a letter from 1787 written by Mercy Otis Warren. Not quite the household name she should be, Warren was an English writer, historian and, astonishingly, political advisor to the founding fathers – sort of the Steve Bannon of her day to the likes of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. In the letter, written just three days after the U.S. Constitution was published, she says it will “set in motion the

pens and tongues of the political world,” but ultimately feared it would “replicate the horrors of the British government.”

In announcing that Warner Library was selected to participate in “Revisiting the Founding Era,” U.S. Representative Nita Lowey said she has “consistently fought to protect funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH),” and “led Democrats in securing a \$3 million increase despite President Trump’s request to completely eliminate the NEH in Fiscal Year 2018.”

“Revisiting the Founding Era” events will take place over the next three years. Warner Library will host its event in 2019.



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New Food Offerings in the Rivertowns

By Linda Viertel

Dominic's Delicatessen – Tarrytown's Italian Deli

A treasure-trove of made-to-order heroes, rolls, wraps and more greet hungry patrons at Dominic's Delicatessen where imported and domestic fine foods are offered as well. Co-owner, Joseph Fiteni, grew up in the business helping his father at his Mount Vernon, Orchard Street store starting in 1973, keeping the business open for 42 years. And, he passed along his love of working in the family-owned deli to his son, Dominic, who inherited the same passion and knows the business well after working alongside his father for 20 years. Now, they share their food knowledge and love of their Italian heritage with the rivertown community at their new location: 15 North Broadway in Tarrytown.

With 18 sandwich choices, available on a roll or hero, it's often hard to decide what to order at Dominic's. But, the Fitenis' 4 signature Italian combos have been the most popular historically, and still are. The #1: a chicken cutlet, with eggplant, fresh mozzarella, roasted peppers and balsamic; the #2 hot roast beef, with muenster cheese, grilled onions and hot peppers, topped with Boars Head Gourmaise (mayonnaise, mustard and a blend of 3 cracked peppers); the #3 maple-glazed honey ham, topped



L to R: Dominic (son) and Joseph (father) Fiteni at their new Tarrytown deli.

— Photo by Jon Marshall

with smoked gouda, lettuce, tomato and gourmaise; and the #4 maple-glazed honey turkey with crispy bacon, muenster, lettuce and honey mustard are the deli favorites.

Four burger offerings are made to order, as are Dominic's four breakfast specials: 2 eggs served with your choices of peppers, sopressata, ham, cheese, onions, or sausage. For a healthy breakfast, try the 3 scrambled egg whites, with low-salt Swiss cheese or feta and turkey. Buttered bagels or a bagel and

cream cheese can be grabbed to go. Salads are made in-house, and there are also three wraps on the menu including an avocado caprese. Store-made meatballs on a sub or roll has quickly become a local favorite.

The store's grocery shelves are filled with multiple dried pastas, Sclafani brand sauces, peppers, crushed tomatoes, sweet peppers, artichoke hearts, Stubbs barbecue sauces and more. A variety of sodas, healthy drinks, chips, and Tate's Bake Shop cook-

ies often complete a sandwich order. Mighty Leaf teas, Brianna's dressings, and granolas fill out Dominic's shelf offerings with additions on the way. And, the refrigerated section is chock-a-block full of Boars Head brand meats and cheeses, Italian specialties and home-made salads – plenty to choose from for a bountiful antipasto platter.

So, stop by Tarrytown's newest deli, grab a bite at the counter or order something wonderful to go. With summer on the way, what better way to enjoy a picnic in River-Walk Park than with flavor-filled Dominic's Delicatessen's specialties?

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Brooklyn Market – Dobbs Ferry's Top-quality Grocery Store

Where in our rivertowns can shoppers go to a sparkling new grocery store and also order a freshly baked stone-fire pizza or shimmering hand-crafted sushi? At Brooklyn Market, in the new Dobbs Ferry Rivertowns Square at the Lawrence Street exit just off the Saw Mill Parkway, extras don't stop there: 400 different brands of ice cold beer are on display, along with abundant organic food choices, daily specials, and basic household items – all reasonably priced. The ease of free covered parking steps away from the store adds to an unusually satisfying shopping experience.

Brooklyn Market is family-owned, and a welcoming homey feeling pervades the store. The family's first venture opened 7 years ago in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (where else?) and quickly expanded to 3 Brooklyn stores, then Manhattan, Bay Ridge and Queens (opening soon). District Manager, Danny Wodzinski and Store Manager, Benz Abouzeid, concur that the Market's target customers are healthy lifestyle consumers. To that end, their store offers a plentiful and unique assortment of products: bountiful produce, meats, poultry, fresh fish, meat alternatives, and items catering to special diets.

"Moms and dads are busy these days," noted Wodzinski, "and we can offer better



meal preparations for fast-paced families." In-store chefs prepare dozens of fresh salads, hot entrees, wraps and sandwiches, a veritable feast for the eyes, in fact. And, starting in June, there will be an outdoor dining area for 40, so enjoying a meal before or after shopping will be an added option.

Since opening, both managers have urged customers to make suggestions or specific requests, and, because Brooklyn Markets are family-owned and operated, they have been able to respond nimbly to customers' needs. The management team engages shoppers, seeks information, provides numerous samplings throughout the store, and creates a substantial list of daily/weekly promotions to enhance shoppers' purchasing experience. Hundreds of unique and everyday items are regularly discounted.

Partnering with Rivertowns Square shops has become another singular aspect of Brooklyn Market's engagement with the community. The New York Sports Club (NYSC) health advisor counsels the Market to make sure it provides the right variety and quality of healthy options to grow the entire shop's offerings, coupled with Market-featured events held at NYSC.

Freshly baked breads – baguettes, crois-

sants and muffins – are delivered daily from the

Marker's Brooklyn bakeshop, and day-old baked goods are donated to a local church food pantry – another way in which Brooklyn Market participates in community life. Exquisite cakes and pies tempt shoppers and can also be ordered for special occasions. A full line of organic grass-fed beef cuts, plus D'Artagnan's charcuterie, game and smoked delicacies, Chairman Reserve premium meats, and organic poultry complement traditional meat department offerings.

French yogurt, kefirs, kombuchas, natural sodas and a huge assortment of Bob's Red Mill grains and flours supplement standard grocery store brands. A dazzling international cheese selection accompanies standard domestic choices; organic baby food and children's snacks supplement more

From the 400 brands of cold beer; sushi-grade fish, custom cut organic and grass-fed meats; to white-glove service – Brooklyn Market is a true destination shopping experience in Dobbs Ferry.

— Photos by Jon Marshall

traditional products. Fluffy Laffa Pita, Joseph's Wraps (including gluten-free options), luscious artisanal ice creams, international foods, and specialty gourmet items such as a wide variety of Stonewall Kitchens offerings, combine to make Brooklyn Market a unique shoppers paradise.

With a grand opening only two months ago, on April 7th, store owner Mahmoud Elayyan has quickly made his 18,000 square foot store into a mecca for discerning customers who not only care about healthy choices but also want to shop wisely and at a reasonable price-point. Plus, who knew grocery shopping could be so easy, delicious and fun?

If You Go

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83 Stanley Avenue, Dobbs Ferry

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Arts & Entertainment

Tarrytown Resident Releases Long Awaited Debut Album

by W.B. King

While Michael Quattrone has been writing and performing music for more than 25 years, June 1, 2018 marked the date that his debut solo album, *One River*, hit the airwaves.

"I have been singing, playing and songwriting since I was teenager, but I have not been gigging a lot or making the rounds," said Quattrone.

A Tarrytown resident, Quattrone, along with his wife, Kala Iversen, operate a not-for-profit retreat center, Hearthfire, located in a refurbished carriage house nestled within Rockefeller State Park. The couple lives in an apartment above the center with their three children.

With a vocal resemblance to Warren Zevon, Quattrone, 41, explained that the 10 original tracks on his album are "musical outgrowths" of his work with Hearthfire. The center encourages "the myth-making potential of creative spirits by offering rituals and retreats" to a diverse community of artists, leaders and seekers.

"Magic happens when we gather in a circle to mark life's passages with song," he noted. "And sometimes you invite a record producer who brings a magic of his own."

One River was produced by Hugh Christopher Brown and Quattrone for Brown's independent, artist-driven label, Wolfe Island Records. The two met during a retreat at Hearthfire in 2015. Over the next two-and-a-half years, the album was recorded in various studios, including Brown's, which is located in an old converted post office on Wolfe Island, Ontario.

"The first time I heard Michael's voice, I was knocked out," said Brown. "Having



Tarrytown singer-songwriter Michael Quattrone's debut album, *One River*, was released in June 2018.

benefited from his talents in spiritual and social practice, his songwriting feels to me like plaintive, literal extensions of his soul. It has been a trip translating it all to tape."

With a degree in theatre from Northwestern University, Quattrone's poetry study and writing include a fellowship and Master's degree from the New School as well as an award-winning chapbook, "Rhinosceroses" (2007). He also served for a period of four years as a curator of the KGB Poetry series in Greenwich Village where he hosted more than one hundred emerging and established poets.

The album's third track, "Sun Son, Moon

Son," underscores Quattrone's yearning for love, peace and universal acceptance. "You can be the mother of peace. I will be the father of love," he sings. "We will raise our

"Magic happens when we gather in a circle to mark life's passages with song. And sometimes you invite a record producer who brings a magic of his own."

—Michael Quattrone

family. They will shine down from above. They will be the children of light. We will keep them warm in the dark."

Veteran musicians contributing to the album include several who back up well-known singer/songwriters and musicians: Tony Scherr (Bill Frisell, Norah Jones, Kate Fenner), Jane Scarpantoni (Lou Reed, Patti Smith), Rocky Roberts (singer-songwriter, guitar tech for Neil Young) and Michael Blake (Lounge Lizards, Ray Lamontagne).

"This record arrives now, after 40 years of life, as a humbling reminder of how much I still have to learn and how much more fully I want to devote myself to love in the time I have left," Quattrone reflected.

For more information on *One River* and upcoming performance dates, visit www.onerivermusic.com.

Bethany Arts

Continued from page 16

Dobbs Ferry, which will run three one-week sessions in August for ages kindergarten to fifth grade.

"Bethany arriving in Ossining is a game-changer for an already artistic community. Not only will Bethany serve as inspiration,

but also as an art making home to so many artists at so many points in their artistic lives," noted Theater O's Artistic Director Jessica Irons. "I can't wait to see the conversations, collaborations and artistic growth that Bethany will be home to."

For more information on the Bethany Arts Community and upcoming programs and events, visit www.bethanyarts.org.



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Vietnam Veteran Frank Rey posts flag at Veterans Memorial at the Tarrytown Sleepy Hollow annual Memorial Day services in Patriots Park.

Obituaries

Raffaella Calvito, 95 Raffaella Calvito 95, a resident of Tarrytown, died peacefully May 2. She was 95.

She was born in Foggia, Italy. She worked as a seamstress for Geoffrey Beene in NYC. She was chosen as the seamstress for some of Nancy Reagan's wardrobe. She also was a gourmet cook who loved to utilize her homemade recipes. She was very independent and loved to visit and shop in NYC. She would travel by train to Pennsylvania to visit her family well into her late 80s.

Gabriel Ferrante, 93 Gabriel Ferrante, a longtime resident of Irvington, died peacefully at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living community in Stamford May 1. He was 93. He was a painting contractor for most of his life after serving in the U.S. Army Military Police during WWII.

Elizabeth Fahey, 75 Elizabeth M. Fahey, a resident of Tarrytown, died peacefully at home May 1. She was 75.

She was born on July 17, 1942 in Tarrytown. She is survived by her devoted husband Thomas, whom she married in November 1961 and loved with all her heart for their 56 years of marriage. Theirs was a love most people could only dream of finding.

Catherine Dobransky, 88 Catherine M. Dobransky, a longtime resident of Irvington, died May 14. She was 88.

Born and raised in Yonkers, she was an Associate Registrar at Manhattan College in Riverdale for more than 47 years. She was a devout Catholic and lived her life serving others.

Ellisa Bosshart, 52 Ellisa Lorraine Bosshart, a resident of Tarrytown, died May 10. She was 52.

She was born in the Bronx and was an active member of the Ridgeway Alliance Church in White Plains, where she served on the Board of the Ridgeway Alliance Women of God Bible Study and was a Dea-

coness for the church. She was also a teacher at the Ridgeway Nursery School.

Joseph D'Eufemia, 74 Joseph D'Eufemia, a resident of Tarrytown, died unexpectedly April 2. He was 74.

Mr. D'Eufemia worked more than 50 years in the men's retail business and volunteered his time in retirement. He enjoyed travelling and had the opportunity to visit many beautiful countries.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Kathy Madden D'Eufemia, his children Michael (Mary Ann) of Salisbury, MA, Tara Schatzel (Robert) of Tarrytown, his beloved grandsons John, Patrick, Ryan and Matthew, his sisters Phyl Adams of Tarrytown and Ava Nielson of Maryland as well as his many loving nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his brother Maurice.

Nicholas Nardullo, 73 Nicholas 'Nick' Nardullo, a lifelong resident of the Tarrytowns, died May 17. He was 73.

He was a graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School and went on to earn his Bachelor's degree from St. Lawrence University. He continued his education earning a Master's degree in Public Administration and one in Secondary Education.

Mr. Nardullo was well known in the area because of his many community ties. He taught American History at Washington Irving and Sleepy Hollow middle schools for 42 years, where he mentored generations of students and young teachers. He also taught Adult Education for BOCES at the Westchester County Jail and St. Teresa's in Sleepy Hollow, developed and ran the North Tarrytown summer day camp and, early in his career, proudly served as the director of the Washington Irving student theater. He was also a member of the Fortnightly Club.

In 1970, he married Marie Coconato in New Rochelle and they settled in N. Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow where they raised their family. In addition to his beloved wife

Marie, he is survived by his loving children Philip Scot of Los Angeles, CA, Kristen (Wayne) Mahood of Ossining and Michael (Lindsay Prevette) of Brooklyn; and his cherished grandchildren, Ben, Max, Aislyn and Sam and his sister Constance Iurato of Danby, VT.

Barbara Muldoon, 80 Barbara Muldoon, a resident of Tarrytown, died May 18. She was 80.

She was born in the Bronx. The family eventually moved to Hawthorne and she graduated from Our Lady of Victory Academy in Tarrytown. She was proud of her years working at Sleepy Hollow High School as a Career Counselor. She later worked for her

son as office manager at Hudson Canyon.

Mrs. Muldoon was active in many local organizations. She had been a Girl Scout Leader and past President of the Philipse Manor Beach Club. Currently, she belonged to the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 11, Tarrytown; the Ladies Auxiliary of the Rescue Hose Fire Company, Sleepy Hollow; and, the Transfiguration Women's Bowling League.

She loved the theater and would go to Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional theaters and local high school productions. If someone was in need, she would reach out to help in any way she could, whether or not she knew the person. She was a generous soul who truly cared for people and loved life.

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June 1, 8, 22
Mixed Media Creations at the Shames JCC, 271 S. Broadway, Tarrytown, will be held on June 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.



Friday 8
Pride Shabbat: June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, will host a Pride Shabbat Reform Service, open to all: singles, families, students, and guests, at 7:30 p.m.



Sunday 10
Auto Show: The Rock "N" Rods Automobile Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lyndhurst. Lyndhurst's historic grounds will feature a unique range of classic and vintage cars shown by Rock 'N' Rods NY.

What's Happening

Check out the complete directory for June at www.thehudsonindependent.com

June

MIXED MEDIA CREATIONS: Mixed Media Creations at the Shames JCC, 271 S. Broadway, Tarrytown, will be held on June 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. It will be taught by multi-media artist Renee Shamosh. The fee for members is \$100 and \$120 for non-members, plus a \$20 materials fee that will be paid to the instructor at the first class. Info: 366-7898.

WALK SAFE IRVINGTON: The third annual Walk Safe Irvington pedestrian safety campaign PSA Video Festival is now accepting entries. It is open to Irvington students in grades six through 12. The submission deadline is June 10. For more information and to download entry forms, visit the SlowDownIrvington Facebook page or e-mail SlowDownIrvington@gmail.com. The awards ceremony will occur on Celebrate Irvington Day (June 17).

PHOTO EXHIBIT: The Ground Glass, a Westchester-based association of fine art photographers, is exhibiting a selection of work by 11 members at the Pound Ridge Public Library's Schaffner Gallery; through June 23. A reception with the photographers will be held on June 9, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The Pound Ridge Library is located at 271 Westchester Ave. Info: <http://www.poundridgelibrary.org/hours--directions---contact.html>.

Wednesday 6

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING: Israeli Folk Dancing with Leng will be held on June 6, 20 and 27. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Beginners will dance from 7 to 8 p.m. and open dance and instruction will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. RSVP is required; e-mail adulted@tba-nj.org or call the Temple Office at 631-1770.

BLOOD FLOW GAME READING: Seamus Scanlon presents a Table Read of *The Blood Flow Game* at 7 p.m. at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center, 300 Riverside Dr., Sleepy Hollow. Info: 332-5953.

Friday 8

PRIDE SHABBAT: June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month and Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, will host a Pride Shabbat Reform Service, open to all: singles, families, students, and guests, at 7:30 p.m.

MOTH MAGIC: The free program "A Little Moth Magic" will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cliffdale Farm at Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. Join Charlie Roberto as he lights up the night to attract moths and other flying insects. Info: 762-2912, Ext 126.

Saturday 9

POPULAR ESSAY: "Rants, Ruminations, True Confessions: Art of the Popular Essay" at 4:30 p.m. at the Hudson Valley Writers' Center, 300 Riverside Dr., Sleepy Hollow. Info: 332-5953.

MACHINE PERFORMS PINK FLOYD: The Machine will perform Pink Floyd's 30th Anniversary at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Sunday 10

JEWISH IN AMERICA: Jewish in America, a brunch and lecture will be held at noon at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Author and Swarthmore College Professor of Political Science Richard Rubin will present a lecture and discussion on the social history of Jewish Identity in America. The brunch is free for TBA members; \$10 for guests. Registration requested: bit.ly/TBA-Rubin.

KIDS CARNIVAL: Greenburgh Hebrew Center and PJ Library are sponsoring a free Kids' Carnival at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront Park (overlooking the Hudson River, next to the Dobbs Ferry Metro North Station); from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy the bounce house, games, stories, and Shabbat themed crafts. Rain location: Greenburgh Hebrew Center, 515 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. To RSVP or for questions contact Stacey at PJLibrary@g-h-c.org.

CINZIA'S STAR STUDDERED SHOWCASE: Cinzia's Star Studded Showcase will be held at 10 a.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

AUTO SHOW: The Rock "N" Rods Automobile Show will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lyndhurst. Lyndhurst's historic grounds will feature a unique range of classic and vintage cars shown by Rock 'N' Rods NY.

CIRCUS ADVENTURE: Westchester Circus Arts presents: *Alice in Wonderland*; a *Circus Adventure* at 4 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Wednesday 13

PLASTIC BAGS IMPACT: *Bag It! Is Your Life Too Plastic?*, the documentary film about the impact of plastic bags, will be screened at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenburgh Nature Center 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale, which is co-sponsoring the film presentations. Refreshments will be served by the Sierra Club at 7 p.m.

BINGO NIGHTS: The Sleepy Hollow Fire Department sponsors bingo nights every second and fourth Saturday of the month at 55 Elm St., Sleepy Hollow. Doors open at 5 p.m.; games start at 7 p.m. You must be 18 or older to play.

RIVERTOWN FILM: Rivertown Films has scheduled a screening of *The Death of Stalin* on June 13 at the Nyack Center, Broadway at Depew at 8 p.m. Information: 845-353-2568 or www.rivertown-film.org. Tickets can be purchased at the door, in advance by calling 800-838-3006 or online.

Thursday 14

DEBORAH SAVADGE PLAY: The Schoolhouse Theater & Arts Center, 3 Owens Rd, North Salem, presents *The Dog in the Dressing Room* by Deborah Savadge from June 14 through July 1. Performances are scheduled on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. T Info: 277-8477.

HAPPY TOGETHER: The Happy Together Tour will be held at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Friday 15

FLEA MARKET VENDORS WANTED: Vendors are being sought for the outdoor YAI-sponsored Flea Market and Craft Fair slated for June 23 at 677 White Plains Rd., Tarrytown. The application deadline is today. Vendors can register online at: Support.yai.org/FleaMarket18 or e-mail Tracy. Behling at yai.org for an application and more information. The rain date is June. 24.

Saturday 16

MOVIE MAVENS: The Movie Mavens series continues at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown, at 7 p.m. This month's film is *Eclectic Pictures*; A moderated discussion immediately follows with coffee and dessert. The program is free for members, and \$5 for guests to offset the cost of refreshments.

Monday 18

TEEN BASKETBALL LEAGUE: For the first time, the Shames JCC will offer a youth league for teens 13 and up. The six-game season begins June 18 and any teen who wants to play is eligible. Cost: \$95 for members and \$115 for non-members. Info: www.shamesjcc.org.

Tuesday 19

SHARKNADO SCREENING: The film *Sharknado* will be presented by The Music Hall Volunteer Movie Committee at 7 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Friday 22

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: A Women's Circle program will be held at 5:45 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Celebrate study and explore Jewish women's issues and history. Info: 631-1770 or tbawomenscircle@gmail.com.

CLASSIC ROLLING STONES: "Classic Stones Live - The Greatest Rolling Stones Tribute Show" will be held at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Saturday 23

TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP: A Tree Climbing Championship will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lyndhurst. Watch as arborists compete to climb Lyndhurst's towering trees and showcase the highest level of professional skills, safety, and innovation in tree climbing and care.

Tuesday 26

TBA BOOK CLUB: TBA Book Club will be held at 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain will be discussed/ RSVP: at 631-1770 or adulted@tba-ny.org.

Friday 29

RIVERTOWN FILMS BENEFIT: A benefit for Rivertown Films will be held at 8 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Broadway at Depew. The program is "Historic Hauntings of Rockland." It is an otherworldly evening featuring some of the region's

foremost leaders in paranormal investigations, Ken DeCosta and Rise Up Paranormal. Information: 845-353-2568 or www.rivertownfilm.org. Tickets can be purchased at the door, in advance by calling 800-838-3006 or online.

Saturday 30

OLD 97's: Old 97's will perform at 8 pm. at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Ongoing

FARMERS MARKETS: The Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Farmers Market is host to both weekly and rotating vendors, totaling more than 50 throughout the season. It is held every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Thanksgiving at Patriots Park in Tarrytown. Free parking at John Paulding School. Info: tashfarmersmarket.org.

FREE TAI CHI: Drop-in Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Mondays from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. & Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Shames JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.ShamesJCC.org.

JAZZ FORUM CLUB: Shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. & 9 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. at One Dixon Lane in Tarrytown. Call 631-1000 or visit <http://jazzforumarts.org/>.

PIRATE QUEST: On Saturdays and Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. children ages 5-8 hunt through the grounds to load precious cargo onto their digital pirate ships at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow. Call 366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

'DROP YOUR PANTS' DENIM RECYCLING INITIATIVE: Bring your worn denim clothes to the Tarrytown Music Hall lobby collection box for recycling into insulation and keep textile waste out of landfills. Visit <http://bluejeansgogreen.org>.

WINE AND JAZZ WEDNESDAYS: From 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. featuring bassist John Lang at La Chinita Poblana in Irvington. Visit www.chinitapoblana.com.

OSSINING FARMERS' MARKET: Open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. through Dec. 17 at Spring & Main Sts. Call 923-4837 or visit www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET: Open Sundays from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Main St. School.

IRVINGTON RUNNING MEETUP: Group meets multiple times per week to keep fit, keep in touch and have fun. Beginning runners always welcome. Visit www.meetup.com/Irvington-running-Meetup/.

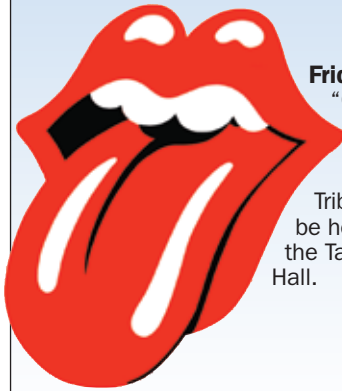
MAH JONGG: Mondays at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or e-mail adulted@tba-ny.org to ensure there are enough players for a game.

MEN'S CLUB: Meets every Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Meetings have varied speakers and are open to the public free of charge. Call 366-7898 or visit



Wednesday 13

Rivertown Films has scheduled a screening of *The Death of Stalin* on June 13 at the Nyack Center, Broadway at Depew at 8 p.m.



Friday 22

"Classic Stones Live - The Greatest Rolling Stones Tribute Show" will be held at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall.



Sunday 23

Tree Climbing Championship: A Tree Climbing Championship will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lyndhurst.

www.ShamesJCC.org.

CHESSE CLUB: The Warner Library Chess Club meets on the second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

HEALTHY LIFE SERIES: Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow offers the community

a wide range of programs on health-related subjects as well as health screenings and support groups. Visit www.phelpshospital.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARIES: Stories, rhymes, crafts and songs for children of various ages at Tarrytown's Warner Library and Irvington Public Library. For Warner, call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org. For Irvington, call

591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

TORAH STUDY: Torah Study is held on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Classes are also conducted on Saturdays at 9 a.m. for a discussion of this week's Torah reading during conservative services. Info: 631-1770.

In Our Libraries

May 2018 Adult Events at the Irvington Public Library

The following events will be held at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor St. Info: call 591-7840 or e-mail irvref@wlsmail.org.

June 3

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT: Watercolors by 13 art students of Gina Lombardi Bratter will be on exhibit from June 3 to 29 during normal library hours. An opening reception will be held on June 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

June 14

SIGHT-SINGING: Learn to sight-read music or refine your sight-singing skills with three fun-filled workshops provided by Irvington resident Liz Fleischer on June 14, 21 and 28. No experience is necessary to take part in the free program. Register online at irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/ signup or telephone the library.

June 21

BOOK CLUB: The Irvington Book Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. The book is *The Nest* by Cynthia D'aprix Sweeney. The club does not meet in July and August.

Young Adult Programs at the Irvington Public Library

The following young adult events will be held at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor St. Info: call 591-7840 or e-mail irvref@wlsmail.org.

June 7

TEACHER APPRECIATION GIFT: Create a DIY teacher appreciation gift at 5 p.m. We'll supply the beach pail, you supply the fun.

June 28

TUG TOY: Make a toy for a deserving pet at 4 p.m. Recycle your T-Shirts into tug toys.

Events at the Warner Library

The following events have been scheduled for March at the Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway in Tarrytown. For more information call 631-7734 or visit warnerlibrary.org.

June 1

ADULT SUMMER READING: Read or listen to any adult book, fill out a review sheet and win a

prize. Call or visit the reference desk for details. The program is for ages 18 and up.

June 4

MESSAGE THERAPY: Benefits of Message Therapy will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Estela Reveles of BodyWise Massage will discuss some of the most common causes for neck and shoulder pain and how to avoid them. Call the library or visit the information desk to sign up.

June 7

READERS RULE: The Readers Rule! Children's Book Group for students in grade three and up will meet at 6:30 p.m. The book that will be discussed is *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly (winner of the 2018 Newbery Medal). To sign up e-mail Patty: at pcohn@wlsmail.org. The book can be borrowed from the Children's Room.

AWARDS CEREMONY: Join us for the Hall of Fame Essay Contest awards ceremony celebrating local high school students and their winning essays at 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Historical Society Serving Sleepy Hollow & Tarrytown, Warner Library and the Villages of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown.

June 9

WRITER'S FORUM: A Writer's Forum will be held at 11 a.m. Anyone interested in writing fiction or nonfiction is encouraged to attend. Please sign up at the Reference Desk or by calling 631-7734.

June 21

TEDDY BEAR STORYTIME: Teddy Bear Storytime will be held at 7 p.m. The program features stories and songs for families of all ages. Wear your pj's and bring your favorite stuffed animal friend.

June 23

INTRODUCTION TO BABYSITTING: Introduction to Babysitting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Certificates will be provided upon completion of the course.

June 25

BILINGUAL BUDDIES: Bilingual Buddies: Author Study will be held at 6:30 p.m. Choose to read and discuss one or both of these books in Spanish or English by Matt de la Peña: *Last Stop on Market Street* / *Última Parada en la Calle Market* or *Miguel and the Grand Harmony* / *Miguel y la Gran Armonía*.

June 28

TEEN GAME NIGHTS: Starting tonight, Teen Game Nights will be held every other Thursday night through Aug. 23. There will be board games, video games and snacks.

June 30

MAGIC SHOW: Libraries Rock Summer Reading Show with Magician David Funn will be held at 3 p.m. The event will feature magic and excitement for age four and above.

Events at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library

The following are some of the programs scheduled for June at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library, 55 Main St. Info: 914-231-3300 or dobbsferrylibrary.org.

June 7

ANNUAL MEETING: The Friends of the Dobbs Ferry Library Annual Meeting and Horizons-on-the-Hudson lecture will be held at 7 p.m. It is open to the public. The lecture is *The Unknown Palisades: A Slideshow Through Time* and will be presented by Eric Nelsen.

June 22

STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW: A Stand-Up Comedy Show featuring Jeremy Cash will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required. Contact the library at 693-6614 for more information or to register for a program.

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Indy Talks with County Executive Latimer

County Executive George Latimer is the featured guest on *The Hudson Independent's* new TV program, "Indy Talks," to be seen on the Town of Greenburgh's Public Access Channels, on Cablevision 75 and Fios 34, every Friday in June, at 9:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. "Indy Talks" may also be seen on our website, www.thehudsonindependent.com, at anytime. Each month new guests will be featured.

Letters

Clearing Up Some Possible Misleading Impressions of Villa Nuits

To the Editor:

I am counsel to the owner of Villa Nuits. Your story last week (May issue) addressing "...Irvington's Comprehensive Plan Proposals Near Approval," contained a series of statements about Villa Nuits that could be misleading to your readers.

Villa Nuits is a 16,000 square foot estate on five acres overlooking the Hudson. It is one of about 2,000 homes recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as being of special historical significance in the United States. Villa Nuits, as with certain other homes in Irvington, has been available on AirBnB and VRBO for guests to join my client at the Villa.

The article conveys several misleading impressions about Villa Nuits.

1. That Villa Nuits can be used for parties with "loud music and noise." This is not true. The Villa is only available for residential types of uses which, under the terms of the rental agreement, must expressly be noiseless, "decibel-free" rentals. Specifically, no outside amplification or electronic equipment is permitted to be brought on to the property, no music is permitted outside whatsoever, and guests can only use the house stereo system until 11 p.m. after which time music may only be played in the basement.

In point of fact, many potentially noisy bookings have been thoughtfully re-directed by the owner to the Ardsley Country Club, Tappan Hill, Hudson Social, and other larger local venues, to the benefit of the local community.

Nevertheless, village police came to Villa Nuits twice last summer because of complaints about noise. In each case, the music was immediately turned off, no summons

was issued, and my client assured village officials he would make sure his rules requiring "decibel-free" rentals are enforced. Villa Nuits has not received any noise complaints since then.

2. The article also conveys the impression, citing "Gatsby-esque bashes," that use of the Villa is somehow unregulated and unsupervised. This is also untrue. In the Villa Nuits rental contract it is stipulated that no fewer than five employees (the Villa 'ambassadors') will be physically present on site and in the house at all times, whenever the house is being rented. In addition, Villa Nuits is fortunate to have ample parking to host all its visitors' cars.

3. On the point of having the Village issue special permits to allow historic homes to be used for large events, such as weddings, a reader might conclude that this idea was one which Villa Nuits lobbied for, for its own purposes, and that APPOA, the local neighborhood association, thwarted this initiative. This is also untrue.

Villa Nuits has never lobbied for large events to take place at Villa Nuits. My client's perspective is that such an idea may be of interest to some of Irvington's other large estates -- but this would not be a use appropriate for Villa Nuits. My client has several times communicated this to his neighborhood association and the Village, and has modified his online advertising, at the request of the Village, so as not to convey the impression that large events are welcome.

4. The article also overlooks the economic challenges facing historic homes that are important to the Village's history and charm. Because of increasingly high maintenance costs, many of these estates can no

longer realistically be used as single family homes. Dozens of these stately homes have dwindled to a small handful in Irvington including three quite recently that have been bulldozed and converted to higher density multi-family residential, converted to use for mental health rehabilitation purposes, or been considered for office or redevelopment use.

My client has also been approached by healthcare organizations, as well as not-for-profit organizations that would take Villa Nuits off the tax rolls. Rather than see that happen, my client has instead supported the Village's efforts to modernize its zoning code to create another realistic option for historic homes (and really for all homes) to address the new realities of modern lifestyles and booking systems. He feels it is in everyone's interest to codify the do's and don'ts into a community-agreed transparent system, and get away from neighbors peering over hedges, self-regulation, and anxiety. The article glosses over any mention of the stakes for Irvington's historic estates in this modernization conflict, as well as my client's demonstrated goodwill towards his neighborhood and emphasizes, instead, the year-old complaints of one specific neighbor.

My client believes that Villa Nuits has been responsible for bringing many new

people to Irvington and he is grateful that the article notes the Villa's success. My client also believes that rather than the Villa disappearing into not-for-profit use, it should instead be shared with the local community while simultaneously generating more income for the Village via permits which may be established for short-term rentals.

One interpretation therefore is that Villa Nuits could be seen as a fantastic gateway for visitors coming to see Irvington for the first time, and an exemplary model for adapting a historic home to modern uses. Villa Nuits in this interpretation could be seen as providing a first case study in helping to define for the Village important modifications to its code.

Another interpretation is the one printed in your newspaper: an out of control party house.

*Bob Bernstein,
Managing Partner
Bernstein & Associates, PLLC*

Editor's Note: Readers are invited to visit the Village of Irvington's website section containing written comments to the Comprehensive Plan's proposal on use of historical houses: <http://www.irvingtonny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8651>.

Quality of Life Should Enter Debate on Express Bus

To the Editor:

As someone who has lived both in South Nyack (for a number of years) and in Tarrytown (now), I have some thoughts on your front-page article (in May issue) "Where the Bus Stops Matters, Depending on Where You Live."

The debate over whether a bus similar to the Tappan Zee Express should continue to bring Rockland commuters to the Tarrytown Metro North station, as opposed to an express bus that would take them directly to the White Plains station, leaves out some of the most important factors--those relating to quality of life.

As we all know, the Hudson Line trip into Grand Central Terminal along the Hudson River is one of the most beautiful in our

area. The Harlem Line trip into Grand Central from White Plains must be one of the ugliest, with apologies to anyone who lives in the communities it goes through. It's no wonder that Rockland commuters would want to have a choice rather than losing the river views that for many are the only saving grace of a daily commute.

Such quality of life considerations should be given great importance, in my view. As a resident of Tarrytown, I would like to think that my fellow residents have enough generosity of spirit to support those fellow citizens in Rockland County who want to share the river experience with us.

*Sincerely,
Michael Balter
Tarrytown*

Story Gave Wrong Impression of Villa Nuits

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern about the impression created by Barrett Seaman in his recent article regarding the Village of Irvington and Villa Nuits.

I'm a photostudio owner in NYC and asked to host some friends for a weekend at Villa Nuits. The host could not have been clearer about the noise restrictions and the need to be careful not to get lost around the neighborhood. He has five staff, our group

was about 20. The staff made sure we used the Villa safely and even went out to collect our food so late night delivery cars wouldn't get lost and annoy the neighbors.

We sat by the fire and cooked. The story gives the wrong impression about a rental of Villa Nuits

*Sincerely,
Anastasia Bezhanova*

Continued on page 23

The Hudson Independent

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Outdoor Art Exhibit at New Bridge Would Be Nice Touch

To the Editor:

Shortly after the governor announced plans to replace the Tappan Zee Bridge with a new bridge and to build a walkway for cyclists and pedestrians to enjoy, I suggested an outdoor art museum be placed along the 3-mile walk.

Recently, I spent a few hours at the River-Arts studio open house in Greenburgh and spoke with many artists about the concept. The artists I spoke with were all enthusiastic and mentioned that Brooklyn participates

in an annual large scale traveling photography exhibit reaching 6 million people through open area exhibitions in eight cities across America. It's called the FENCE (see fence.photoville.com).

Over the past six years, the FENCE has consistently attracted exceptional work by talented photographers from around the world, giving the community an opportunity to enjoy powerful narratives with a diverse audience of millions of visitors annually. If they could have an outdoor art ex-

hibit in Brooklyn, why can't we do the same on the Mario Cuomo Bridge?

I believe that an outdoor art exhibit at the Mario Cuomo Bridge would be enjoyed by millions of cyclists, pedestrians and tourists. It would help make the bridge a tourist attraction and destination point. It would help the local economy by attracting more tourists from around the world. The exhibits should be professionally curated and could also have displays promoting the environment and efforts to make the world more

sustainable. The exhibits should change periodically — just like they do at museums.

I'm writing to state, county officials, leaders in the arts community and business leaders trying to promote this concept. I hope you will give this your consideration. I also have suggested that the walk of the bridge be named in honor of Pete Seeger who did much to promote a cleaner Hudson River during his amazing life.

Paul Feiner
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Inquiring Photographer

by Alexa Brandenburg

“What Do You Look Forward to Most About Summer?”



Julianna Santos
Tarrytown

“To be outdoors as much as I can. As a Brazilian, being indoors for eight months is murder.”



Jennifer Green
Sleepy Hollow

“I look forward to the beach and playing lots of tennis.”



Alejandra Hilario
Sleepy Hollow

“Definitely being at the end of the school year.”



Stella Crock
Tarrytown

“Going to the beach with my grandmother and collecting sea glass.”



Nazem Abndeh
Works in Tarrytown

“I don't like summer. It's too hot and I have to drink too much water.”



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